

REMARKS

I. STATUS OF APPLICATION

The above amendments and the following remarks are responsive to the non-final Office Action dated April 15, 2008. Claim 4 was cancelled in a previous response. Upon entry of this amendment, Claims 1-3 and 5-7 will have been amended, and Claims 1-3 and 5-10 will be pending in the application. No new matter has been introduced. Entry and reconsideration are respectfully requested.

II. RESPONSE TO REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-3 and 5-10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by US 5,436,684 to Hirasawa (“Hirasawa”).

Independent Claim 1, as currently amended, provides for a drive controlling apparatus for controlling a drive of a plurality of optical adjusting members, comprising, in part, a memory configured to store preset drive information, including at least one preset speed and at least one preset position, a controller configured to control the drive of each optical adjusting member on the basis of the preset drive information including a state in which the plurality of optical adjusting members are simultaneously driven, and

“a selection member configured for a user to select a mode from a plurality of modes, each mode having set conditions that correspond to the preset drive information,

wherein the controller sets a drive speed for each optical adjusting member in accordance with the set conditions for the selected mode; and

wherein one of the plurality of modes includes set conditions that set the drive speed of a first optical adjusting member of the plurality of optical

adjusting members to a preset speed and set the drive speed of a second optical adjusting member to a speed calculated from the drive speed of the first optical adjusting member such that *the drive of the first and second optical adjusting members to the preset positions stored in the memory are substantially simultaneously completed.*” (emphasis added).

Hirasawa discloses a zoom lens and a focus lens, dividing the available zoom lens positions into zones, and determining the driving speed of the focus lens by comparing the measured positions of the focus and zoom lenses with a table of speed information for each zoom zone that is stored in a microcomputer. (*See* column 6, lines 20-29). Hirasawa further discusses stopping movement of the focus lens when the speed of the zoom lens changes (*see* column 4, lines 50-57), and changing the moving speed of the zoom lens when the focus lens is stopped (*see* column 5, lines 11-15).

The Examiner asserts that microcomputer 119 of Hirasawa is the “selection member” of Claim 1.

Despite the Examiner’s assertions, Hirasawa does not teach each and every feature of Claim 1. As provided above, Claim 1 recites “a selection member configured for a user to select a mode from a plurality of modes, each mode having set conditions that correspond to the preset drive information” In Hirasawa, the driving speed of the focus lens depends upon its position, not upon a mode selected by a user, as required by Claim 1. Hirasawa does not teach or suggest a selection member that is configured for a user to select a mode from a series of modes. Furthermore, the act of stopping the focus lens in Hirasawa is different from the claimed invention. Claim 1 provides that the “plurality of the optical adjusting members are simultaneously driven,” and “the drive of the first and second optical adjusting members to the

preset positions stored in the memory are substantially simultaneously completed” The lenses in Hirasawa, however, are not “simultaneously driven” until “substantially simultaneously completed” because the focus lens in Hirasawa is stopped. In addition, Hirasawa is silent as to calculating or even setting the drive speed of a second optical adjusting member such that the drive of the first and second optical adjusting members to the preset positions are substantially simultaneously completed. The Office Action does not address this claimed aspect with reasonable particularity.

Thus, Hirasawa does not teach or suggest each and every feature of independent Claim 1, and, for at least this reason, the rejection of Claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) must be withdrawn.

In addition, Claims 2, 3, and 5-10 are each directly or indirectly dependent from Claim 1. These dependent claims are allowable for at least the reasons discussed above with respect to Claim 1. The rejection of Claims 2, 3, and 5-10 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) must be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

Based on the foregoing amendments and remarks, the Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims and allowance of this application.

AUTHORIZATION

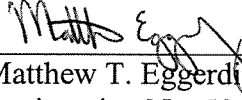
The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required for consideration of this Amendment to Deposit Account No. 13-4500, Order No. 1232-5356.

In the event that an extension of time is required, or which may be required in addition to that requested in a petition for an extension of time, the Commissioner is requested to grant a petition for that extension of time which is required to make this response timely and is hereby authorized to charge any fee for such an extension of time or credit any overpayment for an extension of time to Deposit Account No 13-4500, Order No. 1232-5356.

Respectfully submitted,
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